

CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** Method for the production of a sheet metal plate, in particular of steel, for the manufacture of motor vehicle body components with at least one local reinforcement zone (13, 14, 21, 22, 34 to 37), characterised in that the sheet metal plate by the following steps: (11) is joined from at least two sheet metal sections (7, 9, 15, 16, 24, 25) with join lines running straight (10, 17, 26), whereby at least one of the sheet metal sections (7, 15, 24, 25) exhibits several strips (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 23, 27, 28, 29 to 33) of differing thickness running parallel to one another, and each local reinforcement zone (13, 14, 20, 21, 34 to 37) lies in a reinforced strip (2, 3, 19, 20, 27, 29, 30).
 - a) In a continuous production process, a sheet metal strip (1) is produced with strips (2 to 6) of differing thickness and/or quality running parallel to the longitudinal direction of the sheet strip.
 - b) Individual sheet metal sections (7) with straight cut edges are cut to length from the sheet metal strip (1).
 - c) A first sheet metal section (7) of this sheet metal strip (1) is joined to a second sheet metal section (9), with a join line (10) running straight and transversely to the longitudinal direction of the strips (2, 3, 4, 5) of the first sheet metal section (7), in such a way that the local reinforcement zones (13, 14) come to lie in the strips (2, 3) with greater thickness and/or higher quality.
2. **(Currently amended)** Method for the production of a sheet metal plate (11) according to Claim 1, characterised by the following steps:
 - a) In a continuous production process, a sheet metal strip (1) is produced with strips (2 to 6) of differing thickness and/or quality running parallel to the longitudinal direction of the sheet strip.
 - b) Individual sheet metal sections (7) with straight cut edges are cut to length from the sheet metal strip (1).
 - e) A first sheet metal section (7) of this sheet metal strip (1) is joined to a second sheet metal section (9), with a join line (10) running straight and transversely to the

~~longitudinal direction of the strips (2, 3, 4, 5) of the first sheet metal section (7) in such a way that the local reinforcement zones (13, 14) come to lie in the strips (2, 3) with greater thickness and/or higher quality. in that the sheet metal plate is joined from two sheet metal sections (15, 16, 24, 25) of striated sheet strips and, as appropriate, of one non-striated sheet strip.~~

3. **(Currently amended)** Method according to Claim 2, characterised in that the ~~sheet metal plate is joined from two sheet metal sections (15, 16, 24, 25) of striated sheet strips and, as appropriate, of one non-striated sheet strip.~~ are differently striated.
4. **(Currently amended)** Method according to Claim 3, characterised in that the ~~striated sheet strips are differently striated.~~